

MIX OF RAIN AND SNOW

High: 38
Low: 31
70% chance of rain



Saturday: Sunny, 43/30
Sunday: Sunny, 42/26
Monday: Sunny, 52/29

Details on the back of Metro

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Credible. Compelling. Complete.

GO GUIDE, D1
WHERE YOU CAN RING IN
NEW YEAR WITH MUSIC



SPORTS, C1
WHY THE ARMY-NAVY GAME
IS STILL WORTH WATCHING

NATION & WORLD, A10
WHY JOHN LEWIS WILL SKIP
CIVIL RIGHTS CEREMONY

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT



Sen. Al Franken (center), D-Minn., and his wife, Franni Bryson, arrive at the U.S. Capitol on Thursday. Franken announced he will resign from Congress after accusations of sexual misconduct. "I may be giving up my seat, but I'm not giving up my voice," he said. CHIP SOMODEVILLA / GETTY IMAGES

Franken quits amid
harassment furor

Combative Democrat
takes parting shots at
Trump, Roy Moore.

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Al Franken, a rising political star only weeks ago, reluctantly announced Thursday he's resigning from Congress, succumbing to a torrent of sexual harassment allegations and evaporating support from fellow Democrats.

But he fired a defiant parting shot at President Donald Trump and other Republicans he said have survived much worse accusations.

"I of all people am aware that there is some irony in the fact

ANOTHER LAWMAKER
IS STEPPING DOWN

Rep. Trent Franks, an Arizona Republican, said late Thursday he would resign his seat amid an ethics investigation into allegations of sexual harassment. Franks said the House Ethics Committee was investigating him for discussing surrogate motherhood with two female staff members. **A5**

that I am leaving while a man who has bragged on tape about his history of sexual assault sits in the Oval Office, and a man who has repeatedly preyed on

young girls campaigns for the Senate with the full support of his party," Franken said.

The 66-year-old Minnesotan, a former "Saturday Night Live" comedian who made a successful leap to liberal U.S. senator, announced his decision in a subdued Senate chamber three weeks after the first accusations of sexual misconduct emerged but just a day after most of his Democratic colleagues proclaimed he had to go.

His remarks underscored the bitterness many in the party feel toward a GOP that they say has made a political calculation to tolerate Trump and Alabama GOP Senate candidate Roy Moore, who've both been accused of

Franken continued on **A5**

GEORGIA PRISONS

Some prisoners
wait months for
tests, treatment

Despite backlog,
state says urgent cases
get quick response.

By Danny Robbins
danny.robins@ajc.com

Thousands of Georgia prison inmates, including some who could be gravely ill, have yet to undergo recommended tests or consult with specialists because of a massive backlog in the Department of Corrections' approval process, documents obtained by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reveal.

As of last week, nearly 2,750 orders for inmates to see oncologists, cardiologists and other specialists or to undergo tests such as colonoscopies and CT scans were pending approval, the documents show. Of most concern:



Robert Carey
Seymour

Nearly 500 of the orders had been submitted more than two months ago.

The backlog raises the possibility that some inmates are being required to wait dangerously long periods of time for specialized care, even when their symptoms appear serious and practitioners at their facilities believe tests or evaluations by specialists are necessary.

In one case examined by the AJC, inmate Robert Carey Seymour waited five months before he could be examined by a specialist for a growth on his face suspected to be skin cancer.

Inmates continued on **A4**

ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

Woman describes life
in mom's violent cult

Cobb County victim
tells of beatings,
starvation in Florida.

By Alexis Stevens
astevens@ajc.com
and Ben Brasch
ben.brasch@ajc.com

Deep down, she always knew something wasn't right on the north Florida farm where she grew up. Joy Fluker wanted the answers to the questions she'd always had. But she'd always really known the truth.

Fluker's parents founded the House of Prayer for All People

and invited others to join them at the rural compound, promising a better life through biblical teachings. But those who came left with a dark secret they would keep for four decades. Fluker's mother — known as Mother Anna — physically tortured the residents, leading to serious injuries and the death of at least one child, according to police.

Earlier this year, Fluker did what had once been unthinkable. She reported the behavior of her mother, Anna Elizabeth Young, to police.

Cult continued on **A8**

METRO WEATHER

Preparation, not panic, as 1st dose of winter nears

Forecast calls for
wintry weather until
mid-afternoon today.

By Meris Lutz
mlutz@ajc.com

Ever since the infamous Snowpocalypse of 2014, which stranded thousands across metro Atlanta, local officials have been wary of waiting too long to send people home and cancel school.

On the other hand, they have been pilloried for shutting down ahead of storms that never arrive.

Thursday, with a threat of snow looming, officials tried to strike that careful balance of preparing without overreacting.

myAJC

Visit our website today to get the latest weather forecast, as well as updates on conditions, traffic and any closings.

Channel 2 Action News' Glenn Burns said area residents could expect rain after midnight Thursday. Precipitation could turn to a wintry mix of snow and rain by 4 a.m. today and stretch for 30 to 40 miles on either side of I-85. The National Weather Service issued a winter weather advisory for metro Atlanta and North Georgia beginning at 5 a.m. this morning.

Weather continued on **A12**



Jason Robinson logs data Thursday as he prepares brine trucks for the state Department of Transportation. Brine is a salt water mix that helps prevent ice from forming. JOHN SPINK / JSPINK@AJC.COM

METRO, B1

Report confirms worst fears about our traffic

Average one-way commutes are 31 minutes per day, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

GO GUIDE, D1

Let someone else do the Christmas cooking

A number of restaurants will be open on Dec. 25 for people who don't feel like cooking that day.

INDEX

Dear Abby D11 Comics D12
Classifieds E3 Obituaries B3

Volume 69, Number 342



7 22011 00002 1

2 MEDIUM 2-TOPPING PIZZAS

\$7.99 EACH

CODE: HD3445

WHEN YOU BUY TWO OR MORE



VOTED AMERICA'S FAVORITE PIZZA COMPANY 2017



Authentic Italian Pizza

Specials & Coupons are limited time. Participating locations only; cannot be combined with other offers. Price does not include delivery charge or taxes, (varies by location). Delivery orders must meet minimum amount. *According to 2017 Market Force QSR Consumer Research: Pizza Sector